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Dec '09 - Feb '10

Tunnel View, Winter. Photo by Christine White Loberg

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

December 16, 2009 - February 16, 2010

# Yosemite Guide

# Things to Do

Keep this Guide with you to get the most out of your visit



Illustration by Lawrence W. Duke

**W**hat do you want to do with your special time in Yosemite? The choice is yours. But to give you some ideas, park rangers made a list of possibilities for winter.

In no particular order, here are 10 popular activities for a day in Yosemite National Park.

## Walk to a Waterfall

The Valley is famous for its awe-inspiring waterfalls. As distinct as the granite cliffs they dive over, taking a walk to the base of a waterfall is well worth it. Yosemite Falls is a short walk from Yosemite Lodge and Yosemite Village. You can also venture farther to Happy Isles, where the trail to Vernal Fall and Nevada Fall begins. (See the Valley map on the back of this Guide.)

## Explore a Sequoia Grove

Meet the most massive living trees on earth as you explore a sequoia grove. Yosemite is home to three groves—each within walking distance of a road. Skis or snowshoes are recommended when the trail is snow covered. (See page 7.)



Yosemite's Badger Pass. Photo by Kenny Karst/DNC Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.

## How to Use Your Yosemite Guide

The list on this page offers 10 popular things to do. The table of contents ("What's Inside...") at lower right shows where you can turn for more information. A detailed listing of program information can be found on page 3.

## Visit the Yosemite Museum

Learn about Yosemite Indians by exploring a museum collection that includes remarkable woven baskets and traditional dress. Tour the outdoor Indian Village or talk with an Indian cultural demonstrator. The Yosemite Museum is located in Yosemite Village at shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See page 6.)

## Take a Photography Class

Learn how to best capture the landscape of Yosemite by joining a photography expert from the Ansel Adams Gallery. Several classes are offered each week. Some have fees, some are free. Learn more and sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery located in Yosemite Village. Shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See page 3.)

## Hike to Mirror Lake

Situated at the base of Half Dome, Mirror Lake frames reflections of Yosemite's most iconic cliff. The quiet trail is gentle and follows Tenaya Creek as it winds its way through the eastern Valley. The trail starts at shuttle stop #17. (See Valley map on the back of this Guide.)

## Ice Skate at Curry Village

The outdoor ice rink at Curry Village is nestled among the dramatic scenery of Yosemite Valley. Rent equipment for skating, sit by the fire pit, or enjoy the warming hut at the Curry Village ice rink, which operates through March 7, conditions permitting. (See page 4 for contact information.)

## Tour The Ahwahnee

Step back to an earlier era of history as you explore the National Historic Landmark that opened in 1927. Notable for its architecture and artful décor, the hotel provides a cozy atmosphere to relax and enjoy a warm drink in. (Food & Beverage, page 7.)

## Drive to Tunnel View

One of the most famous views of Yosemite Valley, Tunnel View has captivated visitors for over 75 years. Newly rehabilitated, it offers expansive views of El Capitan, Clouds Rest, Half Dome, and Bridalveil Fall. (See map, page 2.)

## Snowshoe with a Ranger

Learn about the wonders of winter on a ranger-guided snowshoe stroll. Programs are offered daily at Badger Pass Ski Area through March 28th, conditions permitting. A free shuttle from Yosemite Valley to Badger Pass is available. (See page 3.)

## See Half Dome at Sunset

Towering more than 4,000 feet above the eastern end of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome compels eyes to gaze on it. Sunset lights up the cliff face, creating a dramatic and colorful scene. Witness the effect from Sentinel Bridge or one of the meadows near Yosemite Village or Curry Village. (See the Valley map on the back of this Guide.)



Half Dome rainbow. Photo by Christine White Loberg

## Welcome, and Be Prepared Emergency: Dial 911



**Website:** [www.nps.gov/yose/](http://www.nps.gov/yose/)  
**Twitter:** [twitter.com/YosemiteNPS](https://twitter.com/YosemiteNPS)  
**Road, Weather, and General Park Information:** 209/372-0200

## Access for People With Disabilities



The *Yosemite Accessibility Guide* is available at park entrance stations, visitor centers, and online at [www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm). Accessible parking spaces are available just west of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. To reach these, enter the Valley on Southside Drive. Turn left on Sentinel Drive. Turn left on Northside Drive, and follow the blue-and-white signs.

An American Sign Language interpreter is available for Deaf and hard of hearing



visitors. Call 209/372-0645 (Voice) or 209/372-4726 (TTY) to request an interpreter. Please call at least two weeks before the visit. Assisted listening devices are available at the Visitor Center.



## Lost and Found

To inquire about items lost or found at one of Yosemite's restaurants, hotels, lounges, shuttle buses, or tour services, call 209/372-4357. For items lost or found in other areas of the park, call 209/379-1001.

## Weather

Sudden changes in weather are common in the Sierra Nevada. Check at a park visitor center for the most up-to-date weather forecast.

## Road Information

Construction may cause short delays or detours on some park roads. Road info: 209/372-0200.

## What's Inside:

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# Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

## Entrance Fees

Reservations are NOT required to enter Yosemite. The park is open year-round, 24 hours a day.

**Vehicle \$20**  
Valid for 7 days

**Individual \$10**  
In a bus, on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or horse. Valid for 7 days.

**Yosemite Pass \$40**  
Valid for one year in Yosemite.

**Interagency Annual Pass \$80**  
Valid for one year at all federal recreation sites.

**Interagency Senior Pass \$10 (Lifetime)**  
For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.

**Interagency Access Pass (Free) (Lifetime)**  
For permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

## Reservations

**Campground Reservations**  
877/444-6777  
www.recreation.gov

**Lodging Reservations**  
801/559-5000  
www.yosemitepark.com

## Regional Info

**Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)** www.yarts.com

**Highway 120 West**  
Yosemite Chamber of Commerce  
800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429  
Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau  
800/446-1333  
www.thegreatunfenced.com

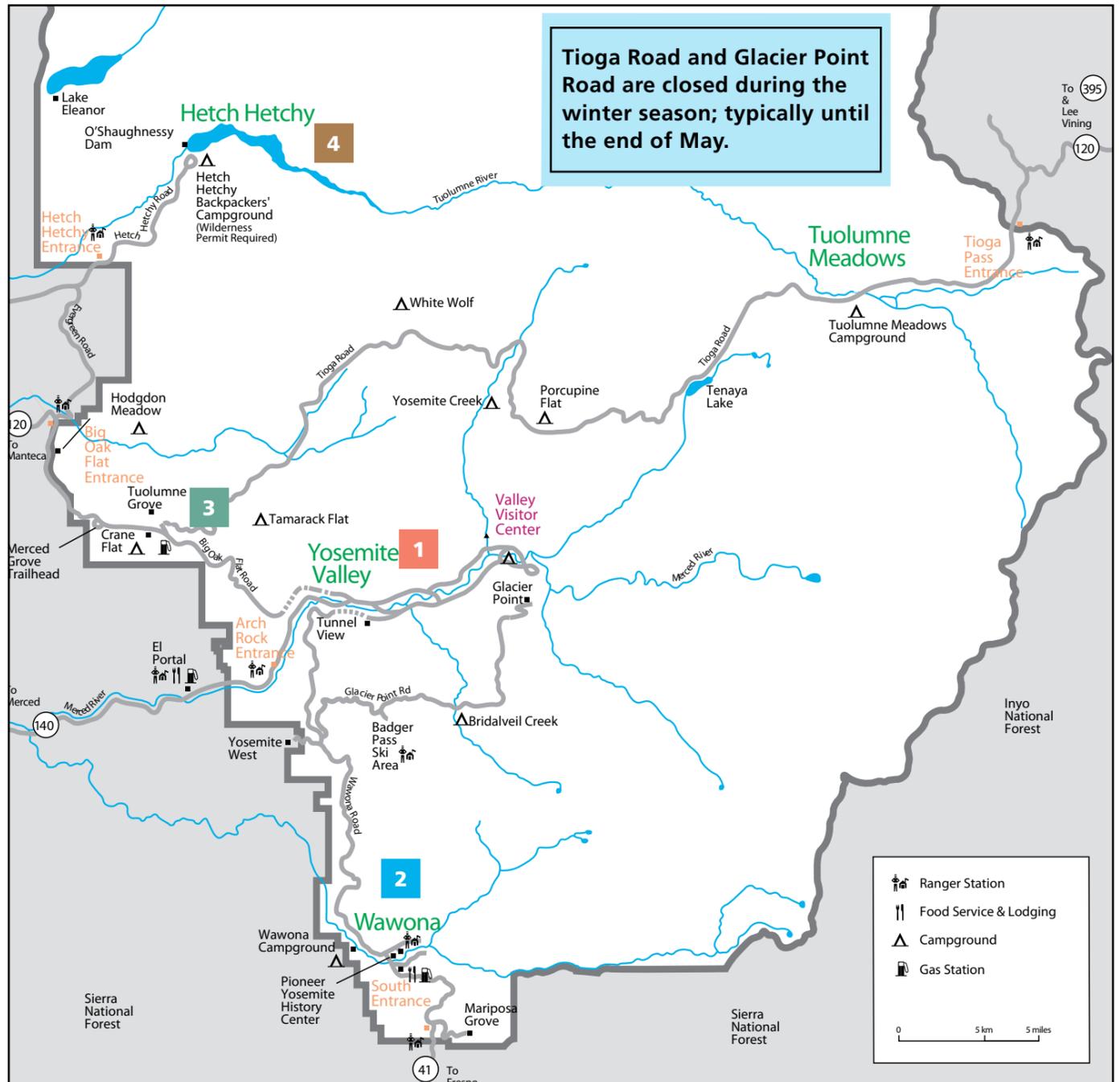
**Highway 41**  
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau  
559/683-4636  
www.yosemitethisyear.com

**Highway 132/49**  
Coulterville Visitor Center  
209/878-3074

**Highway 140/49**  
Yosemite Mariposa Tourism Bureau  
866/425-3366 or 209/966-7081  
www.homeofyosemite.com

**Highway 120 East**  
Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center, 760/647-6629  
www.leevining.com

Calif. Welcome Center, Merced  
800/446-5353 or 209/384-2791  
www.yosemite-gateway.org



## Yosemite Valley

**1** Yosemite Valley is world-famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. In winter, it may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, and Highway 120 west from Manteca. The Valley is known for massive cliff faces like El Capitan and Half Dome, its plunging waterfalls including the tallest in North America, and its attractive meadows.

## Wawona and Mariposa Grove

**2** The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1 ¼ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park's South Entrance station. The road to the grove is closed from December until April due to snow. See page 7 for Mariposa Grove hiking details. Nearby in Wawona, the Pioneer Yosemite History Center is a collection of historic buildings associated with people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite.

## Crane Flat and Tuolumne Grove

**3** Crane Flat is a pleasant forest and meadow area located 16 miles from Yosemite Valley at the junction of Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. A number of hikes through pleasant meadows are available—when snow covers the ground these turn into delightful ski and snowshoe tracks. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area located on the Tioga Road, and walk one steep mile down to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias. Or, park at Merced Grove trailhead and walk two steep miles down to this small grove. These groves north of Yosemite Valley are smaller than the more-famous Mariposa Grove, but are quieter and off-limits to vehicles. Remember that the walk down is easier than the walk back up.

## Hetch Hetchy

**4** Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the City of San Francisco, is home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. The area's low elevation makes it a good place to hike in winter. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles, a 1 hour and 15 minute drive, from Yosemite Valley via Highway 120, Evergreen Road, and Hetch Hetchy Road. Hetch Hetchy Road is open limited hours: 8 am to 5 pm through March 31. Trailers, vehicles over 25 feet long, and RVs and other vehicles over 8 feet wide are not allowed on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.

# Events and Programs

Where to go and what to do

	YOSEMITE VALLEY	WAWONA	BADGER PASS
<b>Sunday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Photography Walk</b> 1½ hrs, Limited space, sign up in advance (AAG)</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk</b> (Starts in January, all Sundays) 3 hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk (DNC) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Stroll – Rivers and Waterfalls</b> 1½ hrs, Shuttle stop #6 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (Dec. 20 only) ½ hr, The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>3:00pm <b>Fine Print Tours</b> 1 hr, Limited space, sign up in advance (AAG)</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr, Check local listings for venue &amp; topic (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Winter Theater Live! The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Ice and Snow</b> (January 17 only) 1 hr, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Cliff Room, tickets at any tour desk or at door, if available (DNC) \$ ♿</p>	<p>10:00am <b>Mariposa Grove Holiday Snowshoe Walk</b> (January 17 &amp; February 14 only) 6 hrs, No experience necessary, advance sign up required at any tour desk (DNC) \$</p>	<p>9:00am <b>Adventure Hike Snowshoe to Dewey Point</b> 6½ hrs, Badger Pass Nordic Center, Mountaineering School, Tickets/Info at any tour desk (YMS) \$</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (Suggested donation \$5) (NPS)</p>
<b>Monday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Photography Walk</b> 1½ hrs, Limited space, sign up in advance (AAG)</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Stroll – Yosemite's First People</b> 1½ hrs, Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS) ♿</p> <p>4:00pm <b>Winter Twilight Stroll</b> 1 hr, The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Ranger Evening Program</b> 1 hr, Check local listings for venue and topic (NPS) ♿</p>	<p>10:00am <b>Mariposa Grove Holiday Snowshoe Walk</b> (January 18 &amp; February 15 only) 6 hrs, No experience necessary, advance sign up required at any tour desk (DNC) \$</p>	<p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (Suggested donation \$5) (NPS)</p>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Photography Walk</b> 1½ hrs, Limited space, sign up in advance (AAG)</p> <p>12:00pm <b>Yosemite Forum</b> 1 hr, Lecture series, topics vary. (Jan. 12 &amp; Feb. 9 only)</p> <p>12:30pm <b>Using Your Digital Camera</b> 4 hrs, Limited space, sign up in advance (AAG) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Stroll – Trees</b> 1½ hrs, The Ahwahnee, shuttle stop #3 (NPS)</p> <p>2:30pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (Dec. 22 only) ½ hr, The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>3:00pm <b>STORYTIME</b> (December 29 only) ½ hr, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Cliff Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr, Check local listings for venue and topic (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Winter Theater Live! The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Ice and Snow</b> (December 29 only) 1 hr, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Cliff Room, tickets at any tour desk, if available (DNC) \$ ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music of Yosemite</b> (December 22 &amp; 29 only) 4 hrs, Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30 pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge. (DNC) ♿</p>	<p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> Conditions permitting, 2 hrs., Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (Suggested donation \$5). (NPS)</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (January 26 only) 2hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>WEE WILD ONES</b> (Except January 27) ¾ hr, Stories &amp; activities for kids 6 &amp; under The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Stroll – Wild About Wildlife</b> 1½ hrs, Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (Except Jan.20) (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (Dec. 16 only) ½ hr, The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Ranger Evening Program</b> 1 hr, Check local listings for venue and topic (NPS) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Winter Theater Live! The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Ice and Snow</b> (December 30 only) 1 hr, Yosemite Lodge Cliff Room, tickets at any tour desk, if available \$ (DNC) ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music of Yosemite</b> (December 23 &amp; 30 only) 4 hrs, Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30 pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge. (DNC) ♿</p>	<p>9:00am <b>Adventure Hike Snowshoe to Dewey Point</b> (Except Dec.16) 6½ hrs, Badger Pass Nordic Center, Mountaineering School, Tickets/Info at any tour desk (YMS) \$</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (Except Jan. 20) Conditions permitting, 2hrs, Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided (Suggested donation \$5) (NPS)</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (January 27 only) 2hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p>
<b>Thursday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Photography Walk</b> 1½ hrs, Limited space, sign up in advance (AAG)</p> <p>11:30am <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (Dec. 24 only) ½ hr, The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>12:30pm <b>In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams</b> 4 hrs, Limited space, sign up in advance (AAG) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Stroll – Yosemite's Legacy</b> 1½ hrs, Front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> (Except December 24 &amp; 31) 1hr, Check local listings for venue &amp; topic (DNC) ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music of Yosemite</b> (December 24 &amp; 31 only) 4 hrs, Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30 pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge. (DNC) ♿</p>	<p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (Suggested donation \$5) (NPS)</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (January 28 only) 2hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p>
<b>Friday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>WEE WILD ONES</b> ¾ hr, Stories &amp; activities for kids 6 &amp; under. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Stroll – Geology</b> 1½ hrs. Front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (Dec. 18 and 25 only) ½ hr, The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Film: Ansel Adams</b> 1 hr, Check local listings for venue &amp; topic (AAG) ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music of Yosemite</b> (December 18, 25, &amp; January 1 only) 4 hrs, Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30 pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge. (DNC) ♿</p>	<p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided (Suggested donation \$5). (NPS)</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (January 29 only) 2hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p>
<b>Saturday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Photography Walk</b> 1½ hrs, Limited space, sign up in advance (AAG)</p> <p>12:30pm <b>Using Your Digital Camera</b> 4 hrs, Limited space, sign up in advance (AAG) \$</p> <p>1:00pm <b>WINTER FAMILY CELEBRATION</b> (Jan. 16 only) Curry Village, 3 hrs, See details below, Curry Village Guest Lounge (DNC/NPS) ♿</p> <p>1:00pm <b>WINTER FAMILY CELEBRATION</b> (Feb. 13 only) Yosemite Lodge Cliff Room, 3 hrs, See details below, Curry Village Guest Lounge (DNC/NPS) ♿</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk</b> (Starts in January, all Saturdays except January 23) 3 hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk (DNC) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Stroll – Winter Ecology</b> (Except Jan. 16 &amp; Feb. 13) 1½ hr, Yosemite Lodge, shuttle stop #8 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>3:00pm <b>STORYTIME</b> (December 26 only) ½ hr, The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Ranger Evening Program</b> 1 hr, Check local listings for venue &amp; topic (NPS) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Winter Theater Live! The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Ice and Snow</b> (January 16 only) 1 hr, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Cliff Room, tickets at any tour desk, if available (DNC) \$ ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music of Yosemite</b> (December 19, 26, &amp; January 2 only) 4 hrs, Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30 pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge. (DNC) ♿</p>	<p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided (Suggested donation \$5). (NPS)</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (January 30 only) 2hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p>

Programs printed above in **COLOR** are especially for **CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES**

**NPS** National Park Service  
**DNC** DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.  
**AAG** The Ansel Adams Gallery  
**YMS** Yosemite Mountaineering school  
**YA** Yosemite Association  
**\$** Programs offered for a fee

 Indicates facilities accessible to visitors in wheelchairs. Short, steep inclines may be encountered.

 A sign language interpreter may be available for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors. Contact 209/372-4726 (TTY) or 209/ 372-0645 to request an interpreter. Advance notice of 2 weeks is requested.

 Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request. Inquire at a visitor center.

**Yosemite Forum**

This science-based lecture series is offered at the Yosemite Valley Auditorium. A new topic is presented monthly. For details ask at the Valley Visitor Center.

Jan. 12 & Feb. 9 only

**Special Winter Events!**

**Winter Family Celebration!** Join park staff for an afternoon of crafts, learning stations, walks, and winter fun. Jan. 16 at Curry Village Guest Lounge, and Feb. 13, Yosemite Lodge Cliff Room

**Winter Theater Live! The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Ice and Snow** Dec. 29-30, & Jan. 16-17, Yosemite Lodge Cliff Room.

# Exploring Yosemite

Spectacular vistas and quieter corners of the park



## The Incomparable Yosemite Valley

Yosemite Valley embraces one of the world's most outstanding concentrations of waterfalls, granite walls, meadows, wildflowers, and trees. The Valley also harbors a rich collection of human stories, from American Indian lore to the birth of the National Park movement.

### Yosemite Valley

An unlimited array of possibilities await you in Yosemite Valley. Most involve sightseeing and learning about the scenery before you. See page 2 for more information on program topics, and page 6 for visitor services.

The base of **Lower Yosemite Fall** is an easy walk from shuttle stop #6. This hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area, and is accessible to the mobility impaired. You can visit **Bridalveil Fall** by car on your way into or out of the Valley. Winds swirling about the cliff lift and blow the falling water in a delicate free-fall.

**El Capitan**, a massive granite monolith, stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. From spring to fall, climbers come from all over the globe to scale El Capitan. *Note: Please park on the paved road shoulder next to El Capitan Meadow. Delicate meadows are easily damaged by trampling, so please stay on footpaths.*

**Half Dome**, Yosemite's most distinctive

monument, dominates most views in Yosemite Valley. Forces of uplift, erosion from rivers and glaciers, and rockfall all shaped this famous feature into what we see today. Cook's Meadow, Sentinel Bridge, Tunnel View, Glacier Point, and Olmsted Point are just a few locations with stunning views of Half Dome.

**Happy Isles** is a place to see dramatic natural processes at work. It is easily reached by shuttle at stop #16. Cross the footbridges onto the Isles or wander through outdoor exhibits detailing Yosemite's geologic story. Shuttle buses may not travel to stop #16 when the road is snow-covered or icy though.

For a strenuous day hike, you can use this trailhead to reach Vernal Fall footbridge (¾ miles) and Nevada Fall (2.7 miles) via the Mist Trail. The Nevada Fall portion of this trail closes in winter due to snow and ice. Visitors with mobility impairments can obtain a placard at the Valley Visitor Center or at an entrance station that will authorize them to drive to Happy Isles or Mirror Lake.

### Winter sports get underway

Badger Pass Ski Area is tentatively scheduled to open December 18. Enjoy ice skating at Curry Village. To learn more: 209/372-8341.

**Tunnel View**, along Wawona Road (Hwy 41) provides a classic view of Yosemite Valley, including El Capitan, Half Dome, Sentinel Rock, Cathedral Rocks, and Bridalveil Fall. It is particularly spectacular at sunset or after the clearing of a storm.

**To experience the Valley on foot**, stop by a visitor center for a trail map and the most current trail conditions.

**To enjoy Yosemite Valley by bike**, if you've brought yours along, take a scenic ride along the designated bike trail routes, as well as paved roads. Bicycles are not permitted on hiking trails.

**Take a Sightseeing tour**, to experience the Valley with a bus and guide. The Valley Floor Tour is a 26-mile, 2-hour tour that departs twice daily from Yosemite Lodge. As the weather turns

colder, tours will travel by motorcoach.

Call 209/372-1240 for reservations or inquire at tour/transportation desks at Yosemite Lodge, Curry Village, or Yosemite Village.

### Take a Photography Class

Learn how to best capture the landscape of Yosemite by joining a photography expert from the Ansel Adams Gallery. Several classes are offered each week. Some have fees, some are free. Learn more and sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Village. Shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See pages 2 and 6.)

## Self-Guiding Trails

### A Changing Yosemite

This one-mile-long walk through Cook's Meadow explores both natural and cultural stories of Yosemite. Brochure available at the Valley Visitor Center.

### Mirror Lake

Mirror Lake interpretive trail is a short loop adjacent to Mirror Lake, a seasonal lake on Tenaya Creek. Exhibits focus on the rich natural history of the area and American Indian use. To reach the start of the trail, walk one mile from shuttle stop #17 to the disabled parking spaces near the lake. The trail begins here.

### Indian Village

This short loop winds through the Indian Village of Ahwahnee, a reconstructed Miwok-Paiute village. A booklet is available at the trailhead and in the Visitor Center. The trail begins behind the Yosemite Museum.

### Curry Village

The Legacy of Curry Village is an easy stroll commemorating the early days of Camp Curry. Pick up a map and guide at the Curry Village front desk or tour desk.



Upper Yosemite Fall. Photo by Cristine White Loberg

Photography walk. Photo by Cristine White Loberg

## Badger Pass

A free shuttle serves Badger Pass Ski Area through its planned closing date in March. Two buses pick up each morning. Departure times are 8 and 10:30 am at Curry Village; 8:10 and 10:40 am at Yosemite Village; 8:15 and 10:45 am at The Ahwahnee; and 8:30 and 11 am at the Yosemite Lodge.

The ski area is about an hour by road from Yosemite Valley and is located a short distance from Wawona Road and Chinquapin on Glacier Point Road. Badger Pass Ski Area is the oldest continuously operating ski area in California. The lodge and original lift opened to the public in December 1935. Nordic ski facilities in the area include close to 25 miles of machine-groomed track (depending on conditions) and the availability (with reservation & fee) of ski huts at Glacier Point and Ostrander Lake. Nordic rentals are available.

## Glacier Point

The Glacier Point Road is open to snowshoeing and nordic skiing during the winter months. It is closed to vehicle past Badger Pass Ski Area. The snow-covered road takes you right to the brink of Yosemite Valley. Go to the railing's edge and catch your breath at an exhilarating view, looking down 3,124 feet to the Valley Floor. For a trip to an overhanging lookout, choose the ski trail to Dewey Point. The trailhead for snow travel is at Badger Pass Ski Area. The road usually opens to vehicle traffic sometime in May.

## Tioga Road

Tioga Road is closed to vehicles during the winter months, usually until May or later. Winter brings ski and snowshoe options for experienced parties. Reaching Tuolumne Meadows via the road is a serious, multi-day undertaking. An experienced guide and avalanche beacons are among the essentials needed for the journey.

## Wawona

Located six miles from the park's South Entrance, or one-hour drive from the Valley, the Wawona area tells the story of Yosemite's human history and pioneer past. The charming 19th-century Wawona ahotel and the Pioneer Yosemite History Center are a history buff's delight. The center is a collection of historic buildings associated with the people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite. Interpretive signs and a brochure provide a self-guiding tour. Also in Wawona, you will find hikes of varying difficulty to places like Wawona Meadow and Chilnu-alna Falls, one of the tallest outside Yosemite Valley.

## Hetch Hetchy

Once considered a twin to Yosemite Valley, Hetch Hetchy was described by John Muir as "a grand landscape garden." Hetch Hetchy is located along the Tuolumne River in the northern part of the park and now contains a large reservoir. Hetch Hetchy's relatively low elevation gives the area one of the longest hiking seasons in Yosemite National Park.

### Winter Weather and Driving in Yosemite

Tioga Road and Glacier Point Road are closed each year from November to late May or early June. Other roads are generally plowed and maintained, but can close or present delays during storm periods. Motorists should always carry chains and check weather and road conditions before travel. To check conditions, call 209/372-0200 for roads inside the park and 800/427-7623 or visit [www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov) for highways connecting to Yosemite.



Badger Pass Ski Area lodge. Photo by Wendy Malone



Cross country skiing. Photo by Brian Grogan



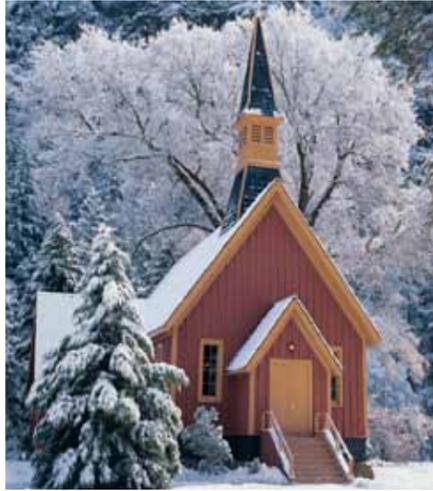
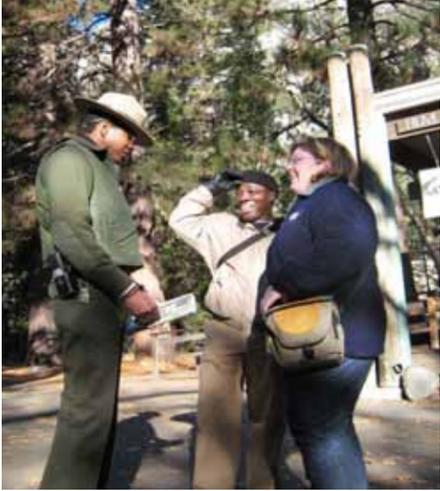
Snow at Wawona's covered bridge. Photo by Christine White Loberg



Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. NPS Photo by Erik Skindrud

# Yosemite Valley

## Where to Go and What to See



### Throughout Yosemite National Park

In Winter, Yosemite is a place of special beauty, offering unique opportunities for outdoor adventure. Below you will find a list of services and facilities that are available throughout the park.

#### Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore

Located just west of the main post office (shuttle stops #5 and #9). Visitor center and bookstore hours are 9 am to 5 pm daily. The center offers information, maps, and books in the attached bookstore. Explore the new exhibit hall and learn how Yosemite's spectacular landscape was formed, how people have interacted with it through the centuries, how wildlife adapts and survives.

**FILM: SPIRIT OF YOSEMITE**

This inspiring visitor-orientation film is shown in the Valley Visitor Center Theater every 30 minutes, Mon. - Sat. between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm; Sunday and Christmas Day, between noon to 4:30 pm.

**WILDERNESS PERMITS**

Rangers issue permits at the Valley Visitor Center from 9am - 5pm. Bear canister rentals are also available at the visitor center. See page 8 for other locations to obtain wilderness permits.

#### Yosemite Museum

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center.

**INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT**

Interprets the cultural history of Yosemite's Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present. Open 9 am to 5 pm, may close for lunch.

**YOSEMITE MUSEUM STORE**

The store offers books and traditional American Indian arts, crafts, jewelry, and books. Beginning Jan. 1, open Thurs. - Sun., 9 am to 5 pm, may close for lunch. Closed Monday-Wednesday.

#### Indian Village

Located behind the Yosemite Museum and open daily, the village offers a self-guiding trail brochure and exhibits on Ahwahneechee life.

#### Yosemite Cemetery

This historic cemetery is located just west of the Yosemite Museum, across

the street. *Guide to the Yosemite Cemetery* is available at the Valley Visitor Center.

#### Ansel Adams Gallery

The gallery is located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center and is open daily. Hours are 10 am to 5 pm. The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other fine artists. See page 3 for photo walk and other event times. For more information, call 209/372-4413, or visit [www.anseladams.com](http://www.anseladams.com).

#### Internet Access

Fee-based terminals are open at Degnan's Deli. Free internet access is available at the Mariposa County branch library, adjacent to the Yosemite Cemetery. Hours vary. Ask at the Valley Visitor Center.

Top Left: Meet a Ranger. Photo by NPS

Top Center: Yosemite Valley Chapel. Photo by Christine White Loberg

Top Right: El Capitan. Photo by Christine White Loberg

**POST OFFICE**

Yosemite Village

**Main Office**

Monday-Friday: 8:30am - 5pm  
Saturday: 10am - noon

Yosemite Lodge

**Post Office**

Monday-Friday: 12:30pm - 2:45pm

El Portal

**Post Office**

Monday-Friday: 8:30am - 5pm  
closed for lunch from 12:30 - 1:30

Wawona Post Office

Monday-Friday: 9am - 5pm  
Saturday: 9am - noon

**BOOKS, GIFTS, & APPAREL**

Yosemite Village

**The Ansel Adams Gallery**

10am - 5pm

**Yosemite Bookstore**

**Inside Yosemite Visitor Center**

9am - 5pm

**Yosemite Museum Store**

9am - 5pm, Thur. - Sun., closed Mon. - Wed. May close for lunch

**Village Store**

8am - 8pm

**Sport Shop**

10am - 4pm

The Ahwahnee

**The Ahwahnee Gift Shop**

8am - 8pm

**The Ahwahnee Sweet Shop**

7am - 10pm

Yosemite Lodge

**Gift/Grocery**

8am - 7pm

**Nature Shop**

11am - 7pm

Curry Village

**Mountain Shop**

9am - 5pm

**Curry Village Gift/Grocery**

9am - 7pm

Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop

8am - 6pm

Dec. 25: 8am - 5pm

**WINTER SPORTS**

Badger Pass Ski Area and Sport Shop  
Scheduled tentatively to open December 18, weather and conditions permitting.  
Information (Recorded)  
209/372-1000  
Information (Live) 209/372-8430

### Help Badger Pass celebrate 75 years of skiing history!

Saturday & Sunday, January 23rd and 24th! Check local listings or visit [www.badgerpass.com](http://www.badgerpass.com) for scheduled activities.



Hours listed are core hours for facilities and may be extended during periods of peak visitation. Check local postings for changes to hours of operation.

**FOOD & BEVERAGE**

**Yosemite Village**

**Degnan's Delicatessen**  
7am - 5pm  
Internet Kiosks available

**The Ahwahnee**

**Dining Room**  
Breakfast: 7am - 10:30am  
Lunch: 11:30am - 3pm  
No lunch service 1/1/10 due to New Year's Day Grand Brunch  
Dinner: 5:30pm - 9pm  
No a la carte service on Bracebridge nights: Dec. 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 25  
Sunday Brunch: 7am - 3pm  
Appropriate attire respectfully requested for dinner.  
Reservations recommended for dinner and Sunday Brunch: 209/372-1489.

**The Ahwahnee Bar** 11am - 11pm

**Yosemite Lodge at the Falls**

**Food Court**  
Breakfast: 6:30am - 11am  
Lunch: 11:30am - 2pm  
Dinner: 5pm - 7:30pm/ Sat-Sun 5pm - 8pm

**Mountain Room Lounge**

4:30pm - 11pm (Mon - Fri)  
Noon - 11pm (Sat-Sun)

Dec 24 - Jan 1 Noon - 11pm  
New Year's Eve Noon - 1am

**Mountain Room Restaurant**

Sunday - Thursday 5pm - 8:30pm  
Friday - Saturday 5pm - 9:00pm  
Christmas 4pm - 9pm  
New Year's Eve 5pm - 10:30  
Reservations taken for 8 or more. 209/372-1281

**Curry Village**

**Pizza Deck**  
5pm - 9pm (Beginning Dec. 18)  
Noon-9pm Sat-Sun only (Dec. 23 - Jan. 2)

Jan. - Feb. Fri 5pm - 9pm;  
Sat Noon - 9pm

Noon - 9pm Jan. 17

Noon - 9pm Feb. 14

**Coffee Corner**

7am - 11am Dec. 19 - Jan. 3  
7am - 11am Sat & Sun only Jan. - Feb.  
7am - 11am Jan 18 & Feb 15

**Ski Buffet**

Sat Jan. 16 & Feb. 13 & 20. Dinner 5:30pm - 8pm. Dancing 8pm - 10 pm

**Wawona**

**Wawona Hotel Dining Room**  
Breakfast: 7:30am - 10am *Breakfast complimentary for hotel guests.*  
Lunch: 11:30am - 1:30pm  
Dinner: 5:30pm - 9pm  
*Reservations taken for 6 or more. 209/375-1425. The Wawona Hotel will close for the season after breakfast on Jan. 3.*

**GROCERIES**

**Yosemite Lodge**

**Gift/Grocery**  
8am - 7pm

**Yosemite Village**

**Village Store**  
8am - 8pm

**Degnan's Delicatessen**  
7am - 5pm

**Curry Village**

**Gift/Grocery**  
9am - 7pm

**Wawona**

**Store & Pioneer Gift Shop**  
8am - 6pm; Dec. 25: 8am - 5pm

**GAS STATION**

**Gas outside Yosemite Valley**

**El Portal**

24 hours with credit or debit card

**Wawona Gas Station**

8am to 5pm. Diesel & propane.

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card.

**Crane Flat**

24 hours with credit or debit card

**FREE VALLEY SHUTTLE**

**Yosemite Valley**

Operates 7am - 10pm. Service operates every 20 minutes.

# Visitor Services

Where to find what you need.

## Wawona

### Pioneer Yosemite History Center

Go back to a time of horse-drawn wagons, a covered bridge, and log cabins. A visit to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center explores Yosemite's history and explains how Yosemite was the inspiration for national parks across America and around the world. The center is accessible throughout the year.

### Evening Programs

Join pianist/singer Tom Bopp in the Wawona Hotel lobby from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Tuesday through Saturday, as he performs songs and tells stories from Yosemite's past.

### Wilderness Permits

Visitors can obtain wilderness permits at a self-service kiosk on the porch of the Wawona Visitor Center at Hill's Studio, adjacent to the Wawona Hotel.

### Mariposa Grove

Located near Yosemite's South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park's largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees. The road to the Grove closes in December and opens sometime in April. Visitors can walk, ski, or snowshoe when the road is closed to vehicles.

### Getting to Mariposa Grove

Allow 1 hour driving time to reach the grove's access road from the Valley. A locked gate prevents vehicles from entering the closure area. Limited parking is available near the gate.

### Snow Travel to the Grove

Skiers and snowshoers can follow the snow-covered road into the grove. Trails within the grove are marked by yellow flags attached to trees above ground level. When snow covers the ground here,

access is limited to foot, snowshoe, or ski.

### Distance and Elevation

Distances below do not include the 2-mile approach from the locked gate near the park's south entrance.

#### Grizzly Giant

Distance from trailhead: 0.8 mile/1.3km  
Elevation Gain: 400ft/122m

#### Grove Museum

Distance from trailhead: 2.1 miles/3.5km  
Elevation Gain: 800ft/292m

#### Fallen Tunnel Tree

Distance from trailhead: 2.5 miles/4km  
Elevation gain: 1,000 ft/305m

#### Wawona Point

Distance from trailhead: 3 miles/4.8km  
Elevation gain: 1,200ft/438m

**Dogs and bikes are not permitted anywhere in the Grove.**

### Outdoor Adventures

The non-profit Yosemite Association sponsors this year-round series of fun, educational field seminars; they're a great way to deepen your connection to our park. Pick up an Outdoor Adven-



Giant sequoias. Photo by Christine White Loberg

tures catalog at: [www.yosemite.org](http://www.yosemite.org), the Visitor Center, or call 209/379-2321. Park entry and camping are included; motel rooms have been set aside. YA also arranges Custom Adventures: [info@yosemite.org](mailto:info@yosemite.org).

**Jan. 16 Discover the Winter World**  
with Ranger Dick Ewart.

**Jan. 21-24 Winter Landscape Photography**  
with camera pro John Senser

**Jan. 30 Full Moon Snowshoe Hike**  
with naturalist Karen Amstutz.

**Feb. 15-18 Winter Natural History at Ostrander Ski Hut**  
with Pete Devine.

## Big Oak Flat (Hwy 120)

### Big Oak Flat Information Station

The information station is closed until spring, but wilderness permits are available at a self-service, 24-hour kiosk throughout the winter season.

### Merced Grove

Yosemite's quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of about 20 trees accessible only on foot. It's a four-mile round-trip hike, ski, or snowshoe (about three hours) into the grove from Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). Located 3½ miles north of Crane Flat and 4½ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance, the trailhead is marked by a road sign and post labeled B-10.

### Tuolumne Grove

This cluster of about 25 sequoias is near Crane Flat at the intersection of Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. The former route of the Big Oak Flat Road leads downhill from Crane Flat into the grove. Now closed to cars, this path drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The trip (you can walk, ski, or snowshoe) is moderately strenuous uphill. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guiding nature trail.

**SHOWERS AND LAUNDRY**

**Curry Village**

**Showers** – Open 24 hours  
Housekeeping Camp  
**Laundromat** – 8am to 10pm

**RELIGIOUS SERVICES**

**YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**WORSHIP SERVICES / YOSEMITE VALLEY CHAPEL**  
Sunday 9:15 am  
Thursday: 7 pm; Tuesday Bible Studies  
Christmas Eve Service 4pm  
New Year's Eve Service 10pm  
Call 209/372-4831 for information

**ROMAN CATHOLIC**

Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Theater  
Sunday Mass 10 am; Info: 209/372-4729  
Christmas Eve Mass: 7:30pm  
Christmas Morning Mass: 10am

**CHURCH OF CHRIST (NONDENOMINATIONAL)**

El Portal Chapel/Worship: Sunday 11am  
Foresta Road, at top of Chapel Lane  
Information: 209/379-2100

**GENERAL SERVICES**

**Village Garage**

NO GAS AVAILABLE IN  
YOSEMITE VALLEY  
8am - 5pm  
Towing 24 hours. Propane available until 4pm. 209/372-8320

**Dental Services**

Adjacent to Yosemite Medical Clinic.  
For hours, call 209/372-4200.  
If no answer, call 209/372-4637

**Yosemite Medical Clinic** +

Emergency care: 24 hours daily.  
Drop-in and urgent care: 8am - 7pm.  
Appointments: 8am to 5pm Mon. through Fri.  
Located on Ahwahnee Drive in Yosemite Valley, the clinic provides routine and emergency medical care, 24-hour paramedic/ambulance services, limited pharmacy, lab, x-ray, physical therapy, and Mountain Crisis Services for victims of domestic violence. 209/372-4637

**SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

7:30 pm Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday  
DNC General Office Building  
(Employee Training Center) Yosemite Village

**AL-ANON**

No Al-Anon meetings are currently taking place. However, if you need to speak with someone, feel free to call Dave M. at 209/765-1266.

**LIONS CLUB**

Meets the first and third Thursdays of each month at noon, The Ahwahnee.  
Call 209/372-4475.

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL**

Meets Thursdays for lunch at noon in The Ahwahnee Mural Room. Visiting Rotarian families and guests welcome. For meeting reservations or information, call 209/372-8459.

# Protecting Yourself

## Experience Yosemite —Safely



### Keep yourself safe while exploring your park.

There are many ways to experience the wildness of Yosemite. While the forces of nature can create unexpected hazardous conditions, with a little common sense and some pre-planning, you can minimize the risks associated with many activities.

#### Rockfall Awareness

Due to its steep, glacier-carved cliffs, Yosemite Valley experiences many rockfalls each year. Be aware that rockfalls are inherently unpredictable and may happen at any time. Pay attention to warning signs, stay off closed trails, and, if unsure, keep away.

#### Around Ice and Water

- Stay off frozen lakes, ponds and streams and away from swiftly-moving water. Keep children from wandering on or near these hazards.
- Never swim or wade upstream from the brink of a waterfall, even if the water appears shallow and calm. Each year, unsuspecting visitors are swept over waterfalls to their deaths when swimming in these areas.
- Swimming is not permitted in the Hetch Hetchy reservoir or in Emerald Pool above Vernal Fall.

#### Avoid Hypothermia

Sierra winters are comparatively mild, but temperatures can drop into dangerous territory with little warning. Winter sports require a high degree of preparation and training. Be prepared for a bivouac even when out just for the day. Know how to use your gear and carry basic repair materials.

Avoid the combination of wetness, wind, and cold. Know symptoms of hypothermia. Carry emergency fire-starting materials and food. Avoid dehydration; carry and drink plenty of water and carry emergency high-energy food.

#### Water Quality

To protect yourself from disease, treat any surface water before drinking.

- Treatment methods include boiling

for five minutes, use of a Giardia-rated water filter, or iodine-based purifier.

- To prevent the spread of Giardia and other water-borne disease organisms, use restroom facilities where available, and always wash hands afterwards with soap and water. In natural areas where facilities are not available, wash, camp, and bury human waste (6 inches deep) at least 100 feet away from any water source or trail.

#### Traffic Safety

Roads leading to the park are two-lane, narrow, and winding. When traveling on park roads you can protect yourself, other visitors, and park wildlife by observing the following simple rules: Please obey posted speed limits. Yosemite's roads are used by both visitors and park wildlife. Use turnouts to pull completely out of the road, to take photos, consult the park map, or simply enjoy the park's scenery and wildlife.

#### Effects of Altitude

Altitude sickness may develop in otherwise healthy and fit people who are exposed to rapid increases in altitude. It can develop at altitudes as low as 8,000 feet (Yosemite Valley's elevation is 4,000 feet). Should altitude sickness develop, descend to a lower elevation. The Yosemite Medical Clinic in Yosemite Valley is experienced in diagnosing and treating this sickness.

#### Hiking, Backpacking, Backcountry Snow Travel, and Rock Climbing

- There are no scheduled winter patrols, so be prepared. You're on your own. Be honest about your abilities and plan with the least experienced member of your group in mind. Tell someone where you are going and when you are due back.

- Be prepared for icy travel before conditions arise. Bring crampons, ice axe, climbing skins, and other traction devices.
- Carry and know how to use a map and compass.
- Check weather forecasts. Snow can occur with little warning, and can make route finding very difficult. Temperature shifts are common.
- Avoid dehydration or heat exhaustion; carry and drink plenty of water, and bring high-energy food.
- Be prepared to set up emergency shelter even when out just for the day.
- Know how to use your gear and carry basic repair materials.

#### Wilderness Permit Details

Free wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Rangers issue permits at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (9am - 5pm). Self-registration permits are available seven days a week at, Tuolumne Meadows Ski Hut, Big Oak Flat, Hill's Studio in Wawona, and the Hetch Hetchy entrance station (8am - 5pm). Permits for the Glacier Point ski trails and Ostrander Hut are available at Badger Pass beginning December 18th. Call the park's main phone, 209/372-0200, or visit the park website for current conditions and updates. Currently, bear canisters can be rented only at the Valley Visitor Center.

#### More Information

[www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm)

Leave No Trace [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)

Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue [www.friendofyosar.org](http://www.friendofyosar.org)

### Vehicle Chain Requirements

When you are visiting from November through March, expect chain requirements to be in effect, even if you only plan to park in the Valley and ride the shuttle bus. Any time chain controls are in effect, all vehicles must have chains or cable chains ready for use. Not having them could subject you to an expensive citation.

#### Changes in Elevation

Because higher elevation roads receive more snow, chains are required on the Wawona Road (Highway 41), Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 west), and Badger Pass Road more often than on the El Portal Road (Highway 140), roads within Yosemite Valley, and the Hetch Hetchy Road.

#### Check by Phone

Call 209/372-0200 (press 1 then 1) for updated road information inside the park. This recording is updated whenever road conditions change and is the same way in which park staff gets road information. This recording includes information about current chain requirements. Remember that conditions can change rapidly.

You can also call 800/427-7623 for road conditions throughout California (these links & phone number do not provide information about roads within Yosemite).

#### Online Information

A summary of chain control rules can be found on the park website at [www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/chains.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/chains.htm)

Upper Left: View near Dewey Point. Photo by Tom Medema

# Protecting Your Park

Enjoy park places, plants, and wildlife safely and responsibly



Sow and cub. Photo by Christine White Loberg

## Protect Yosemite's Wilderness

- Pack out all trash and toilet paper/sanitary products.
- Use gas stoves rather than wood fires.
- Camp in an existing campsite at least 100 feet from water and trail. You must be four trail miles from any populated area and one mile from any road before camping.
- To minimize trampling of vegetation, bring a container to carry water to your camp from lakes or streams.
- Maximum group size is 15 people for trail travel and eight people for off-trail travel.
- Yosemite is a wildlife preserve. Pets, weapons, bicycles, strollers, and motor vehicles are never allowed on Yosemite's wilderness trails.

## Fishing

Fishing in Yosemite is regulated under state law. A valid California sport-fishing license is required for those persons age 16 years and older. When fishing, the license must be plainly visible by attaching it to an outer layer of clothing above the waistline.

- Trout season opens on the last Saturday in April and continues through November 15 (except Frog Creek near Lake Eleanor, which opens June 15).
- Special fishing regulations apply on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley from Happy Isles downstream to the Foresta Bridge in El Portal. Within

these reaches of the river, it is catch-and-release only for rainbow trout. Brown trout limits are five fish per day. Only artificial lures or flies with barbless hooks may be used.

- The use of live or dead minnows, bait fish or amphibians, non-preserved fish eggs or roe is prohibited.

## Pets

Some visitors choose to bring pets along on their vacations. Keep in mind, in Yosemite, pet owners have a few rules to follow:

- Pets are only allowed in developed areas and on roads and paved bike paths. They are not allowed on other trails, or in wilderness areas.
- Pets must be on a leash (6 feet or less) or otherwise physically restrained.
- For the courtesy of others, human companions are responsible for cleaning up and depositing pet feces in trash receptacles.
- Pets are not allowed in any lodging facilities or other buildings within the park and are not allowed in some campgrounds.
- Pets may not be left unattended.

## Bicycling

Each season, plants are crushed from bicycle travel in meadows, campgrounds, and picnic areas. Please respect park resources and keep bicycles on paved roads and paved bicycle trails. They are not allowed to travel off-trail or on dirt paths or trails.

closely and never let them run ahead or lag behind on the trail. Teach children what to do if they see a lion. Never approach a lion, especially if it is with kittens.

Most lions will avoid confrontation. Always give them a way to escape. Don't run. Hold your ground, or back away slowly. Face the lion and stand upright. Raise your arms. If you have small children with you, pick them up. If the lion behaves aggressively, wave your arms,

## Permits and Other Rules

To find out more about Yosemite National Park regulations visit [www.nps.gov/yose/plan\\_your\\_visit/your\\_safety.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/plan_your_visit/your_safety.htm) and find a copy of the Superintendent's Compendium. This document is a compilation of designations, closures, permit requirements, and other restrictions made by the superintendent, in addition to what is contained in applicable federal statutes and regulations.

## Reporting Violations

During your visit to Yosemite be aware that there are people who either unknowingly or intentionally harm park resources. In accordance with new federal regulations, possession of a firearm within Yosemite must be in conformity with federal law and California statutes. Please contact a park official if you see the following illegal acts:

- Actively feeding or harassing wildlife
- Collecting plants, reptiles, or insects
- Hunting or directly harming animals
- Picking up archeological items such as arrowheads
- Using metal detectors to locate and collect historic objects
- Driving vehicles into meadows
- Camping outside of campgrounds
- Possession of weapons

If you see activities that could harm people or park resources, jot down any descriptions or a vehicle license plate number and call the park dispatch office at 209/379-1992.

shout, and throw objects at it. The goal is to convince it that you may be dangerous. If attacked, fight back!

Report lion encounters at 209/372-0322.



Mountain lion by Tom Whitworth

## Keeping Bears Wild

**Three Top Ways to Keep Yosemite's Black Bears Wild and Alive. Remember that Yosemite Bears are Active All Winter Long:**

### 1. Store Your Food Properly.

"Food" includes any item with a scent, regardless of packaging. This may include items that you do not consider food, such as canned goods, bottles, drinks, soap, cosmetics, toiletries, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed items used for preparing or eating meals. Do not store food in your car after dark: use a food locker. Remember to clear your car of food wrappers, baby wipes, and crumbs in baby seats. If you are staying in a campsite or tent cabin, you must store all your food in food lockers. A food locker is available at each campsite and tent cabin. Food may be stored out of sight in hard-sided RVs with windows closed. Do not leave food unattended at picnic areas and along trails. When backpacking in the wilderness, bear resistant food containers are required.

### 2. If you see a bear, scare it away or keep your distance.

You may not see a bear during your visit because they naturally avoid people. However, if you see one in a developed area (like a campground or parking lot), act immediately to scare it away: Make noise and yell as loud as possible. If there is more than one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear.

If you see a bear anywhere else, consider yourself lucky—but keep your distance (at least 50 yards, or about the distance made by four shuttle buses parked end to end). If you get too close, you will be helping the bear become used to being around people.

### 3. Drive the speed limit.

The most common human-related cause of death for a black bear in Yosemite is being hit by a car. Please slow down!

To report bear sightings, improper food storage, trash problems, and other bear-related problems, leave a message for the Bear Management Team at 209/372-0322.

## Mountain Lions

Mountain lions are a normal and important part of the park ecosystem. They are attracted to areas with healthy deer and raccoon populations, which include many areas of the park. Generally, they are calm, quiet, and elusive.

Sightings are quite rare, so if you spot one, consider yourself privileged!

Avoid hiking alone. Watch children

# Bird-watching Opportunities

## Feature Article



Yosemite National Park's scientists have documented the presence of more than 250 bird species in the park. Birders are sure to have a lot to see. NPS photo by Sarah Stock.

Bird Counts, are particularly interesting to Yosemite researchers because new evidence suggests that the Sierra Nevada is home to a genetically distinct population, compared to great gray owls outside California.

Yosemite is the southernmost range of almost all of California's great gray owls. Researchers estimate there are only 200 to 300 individuals in California, and about 75% of the state's population resides in Yosemite. This rare and endangered owl is the largest North American owl—standing as tall as 2 feet with a 5-foot wingspan. Unlike the more common great horned owl, the great gray lacks “horns” or ear tufts, and instead has a smooth rounded head with piercing yellow eyes, accented by large facial disks. In the winter, great gray owls generally move downslope to snow-free areas to more easily access rodent prey. Great gray owls can be active at any time of the day or night, preferring to hunt in open meadows and clearings within the forest, using branches and low seedlings for listening posts. If you happen to spot a great gray owl during the Bird Count, consider yourself lucky.

## Yosemite Christmas Bird Count, a park tradition since 1932, happens on Dec. 20. Zoom in on the park's avian diversity!

By Ranger Elizabeth Munding and Sarah Stock, Wildlife Biologist

Unwrap a seasonal surprise for yourself. During winter, watch John Muir's favorite bird, the American dipper, as it plunges underneath ice in its search for aquatic insects and minnows. Or, observe a flock of gregarious mountain chickadees and red-breasted nuthatches as they mob a tiny northern pygmy-owl.

See the birds add up fast during the Yosemite Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 20 and then continue to give yourself the gift of bird-watching throughout the winter season. An astounding 255 species of birds have been documented in Yosemite; including 165 resident and migratory species.

### A Park Tradition

Since 1932, Yosemite National Park's participation in the Christmas Bird Count has contributed more than 90,000 observations to the annual conservation event. On a winter day each year, tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas join to celebrate and count birds. In 2008, Yosemite participants identified 3,028

birds of 65 species. Species with the biggest annual counts are band-tailed pigeon (1,100 individuals in 1970), American robin (580 in 2008), mountain chickadee (560 in 1972), Oregon dark-eyed junco (503 in 1953), and golden-crowned kinglet (483 in 1953). During the 2008 event, 32 birders were separated into six groups to cover large expanses of the park. Highlights included a northern goshawk in the west end of Yosemite Valley, a merlin in Foresta, a northern mockingbird in El Portal and two red-breasted x red-naped sapsucker hybrids—in El Portal and Foresta.

### The Art of Birding

Experienced birders confidently identify birds by just a glimpse. Birders use silhouette, posture, flight pattern, size, and habitat to recognize different birds. Start by keying in on a general group or family of birds, such as warblers, flycatchers, hawks, owls, and wrens because all members of a group share similarities. As a next step, note the field marks—colored or patterned places on a bird's body, head, and wings. Remember that a bird's feathers change as a juvenile bird molts into its adult plumage, or as an adult molts into its winter plumage. For many species, a

male bird's winter plumage is dull compared to his colorful plumage in the spring when he is interested in attracting a female. Also, note subtle nuances in a bird's song or call—long trills or short chips. In the winter, birds rarely sing but make call notes to defend a territory, announce the presence of a predator, or to keep up with a mixed-species foraging flock.

### Necessary Equipment

Carrying the right equipment is key for birding: Bring a bird guide, notebook and pen, and a pair of binoculars. First spot a bird with your eyes, and then lift your binoculars to your eyes without moving your head or losing sight of the bird. Becoming familiar with your field guide by interpreting the range maps and learning the terms for various field marks will help you more quickly identify birds. Record your observations, such as species, date, location, and observers.

### A Distinct Population

Birds are said to be excellent indicators of an area's environmental health; therefore many research studies seek to gain a greater understanding of bird populations. Great gray owls, observed in past Yosemite Christmas

### Volunteer for the Dec. 20 Event

To attend the Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 20, or next year in December 2010, contact ornithologist Sarah Stock by e-mail at [yose\\_birds@nps.gov](mailto:yose_birds@nps.gov) or by phone at 209/379-1435 to be assigned to an area and a group. Bring lunch, plenty of warm clothes and sturdy shoes. A small fee exists to support the publication of count results in National Audubon Field Guide Note. Plan to be outside from dawn to dusk. A compilation potluck dinner closes the day to allow participants to share Yosemite birding highlights.



Yosemite is home to the most southerly population of the great gray owl in California. Photo by Sharna Tolfree.

# Supporting Your Park

Providing for Yosemite's Future

## Enhancing the Visitor Experience

It takes a legion of people working together to protect this special park for you and future generations of visitors. You, too, can extend your connection to Yosemite well after you return home by getting involved with the organizations that partner to preserve Yosemite.

**This publication was made possible by the Yosemite Park Partners listed on this page.** Read more below or visit [www.yosemitepartners.org](http://www.yosemitepartners.org) to learn more about helping these organizations provide for the future of Yosemite National Park.



### The Ansel Adams Gallery

The Ansel Adams Gallery, owned by the family of photographer Ansel Adams since 1902, is a center that celebrates the arts and the natural grandeur of our environment. It cultivates an aesthetic appreciation and concern for our world by offering visitors a unique variety of literature and art, as well as programs that inspire creativity. Visit online at [www.anseladamsgallery.com](http://www.anseladamsgallery.com).

### DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite (DNC) operates hotels, restaurants, sightseeing tours, recreational activities, interpretive programs, stores, shuttles and service stations in the park under contract with the U.S. Department of the Interior. DNC encourages its employees to develop a strong relationship with the park during their tenure. For more information and employment opportunities with DNC at Yosemite, visit online at [www.YosemitePark.com](http://www.YosemitePark.com).

### Yosemite Association

The Yosemite Association is a nonprofit membership organization that provides opportunities for people to learn about, enjoy, and experience Yosemite National Park and the Sierra Nevada. The Association celebrates the majesty and grandeur of this region through its visitor services, publications, outdoor classroom, and membership activities, which give people of all ages the chance to forge an enduring and inspirational connection to Yosemite. This, in turn, builds a commitment to the long-term preservation and vitality of Yosemite and our National Parks. Since 1923, the Association has provided important services and financial support to the National Park Service. Anyone who loves Yosemite and wishes to be more closely involved and affiliated with the park will enjoy membership in the Association. For more information, visit park bookstores or [www.yosemite.org](http://www.yosemite.org).

### The Yosemite Fund

The Fund provides broad-based private funding from 27,000 donors for projects that preserve, protect, or enhance Yosemite Park. Fund operations result in material improvement in the stewardship and quality of Yosemite's natural, cultural or historical resources or the visitor experience. Fund grants repair trails, restore habitat, conduct scientific research, enhance visitor education, preserve park history, and protect wildlife. Since 1988 the Fund has provided over \$50 million to complete more than 200 projects. Visit online at [www.yosemitefund.org](http://www.yosemitefund.org).

### Yosemite Institute

Since 1971, thousands of school-age children have benefited from learning in "nature's classroom" through the residential field-science programs offered by Yosemite Institute (YI). A YI experience strives to foster a life-long connection to the natural world—whether it is in Yosemite, on a city street or in our own backyards. YI also offers professional development for teachers, summer youth programs, backpacking adventures, community outreach programs and service learning projects. For more information, visit [www.naturebridge.org/yosemite](http://www.naturebridge.org/yosemite).

## Contact Us...

### The Ansel Adams Gallery

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### DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite

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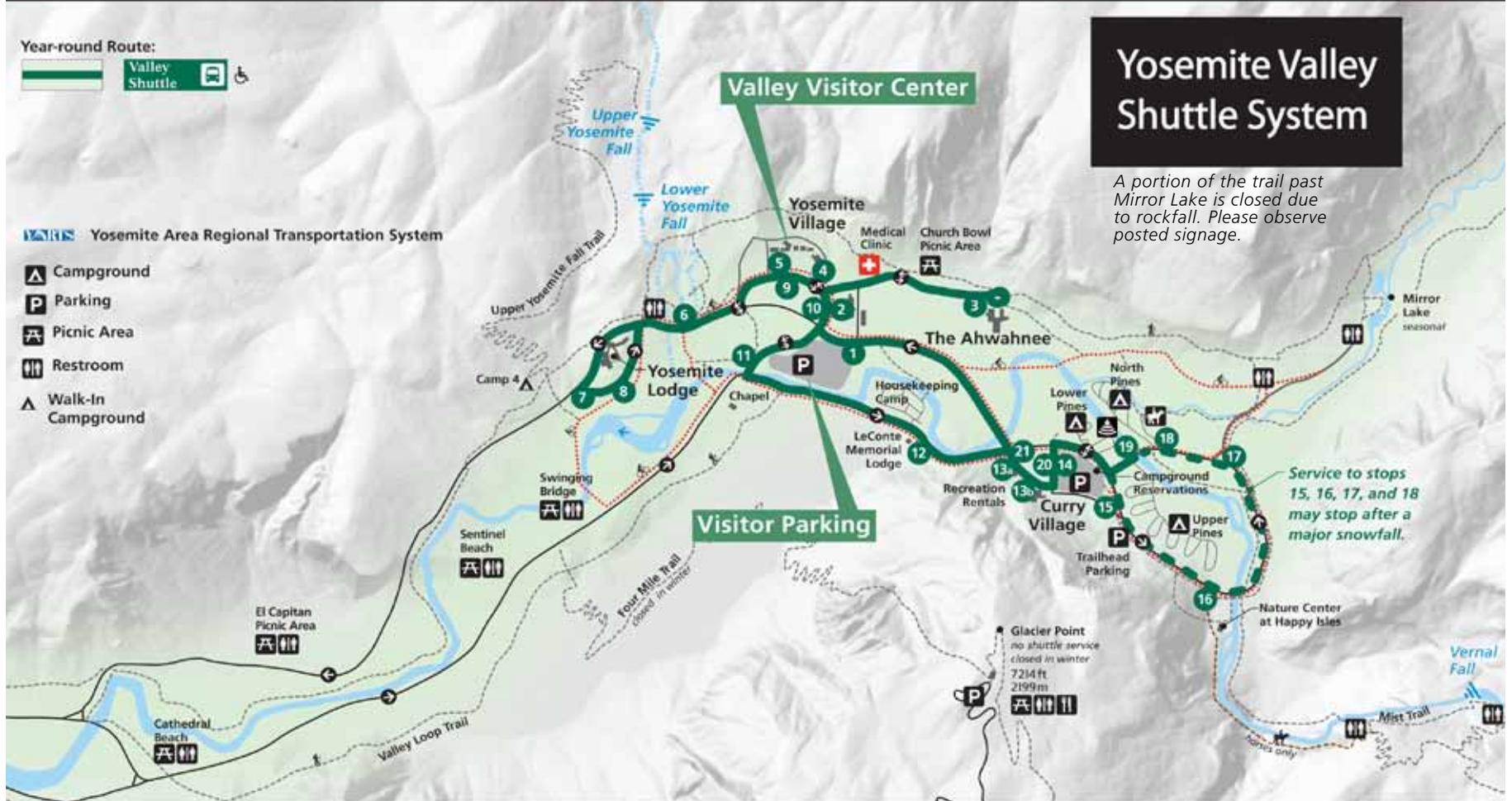
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**THE YOSEMITE FUND®**  
*Providing for Yosemite's Future*

Above right: Half Dome. Photo: Christine White Loberg



Shuttles run daily every 10-20 minutes depending on the time of day. The Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7:00am - 10:00pm. All shuttles follow the same route, serving stops in numerical order. Service may be affected by construction projects. Check shuttle stops for more information.

Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location
1	Visitor Parking	8	Yosemite Lodge	16	Happy Isles
2 10	Yosemite Village	11	Sentinel Bridge	17	Mirror Lake Trailhead
3	The Ahwahnee	12	LeConte / Housekeeping Camp	18	Stable
4	Degnan's Deli	13a 21	Recreation Rentals	19	Pines Campgrounds
5 9	Valley Visitor Center	13b	Curry Village		
6	Lower Yosemite Fall	14 20	Curry Village Parking		
7	Camp 4	15	Upper Pines Campground		